

## Honouring the Past – Securing the Future

**Following donations to build a secure future for the community, The Mackay Foundation would like to honour**

### DONALD JAMES MURRAY

Donald Murray was born in Brisbane on March 11, 1919, the youngest child of Robert and Josephine Murray. He was educated at Enoggera Convent School where he loved to play cricket and had memories of watching the great Donald Bradman play at the Gabba Cricket ground. He joined the workforce in the Depression and worked two years on a fruit orchard at Stanthorpe. He trained in the pre-war militia and reached the rank of Sergeant. His war service involved the building of military hospitals at Greenslopes and Gatton.

Don became an apprentice to plumbers J R Wyllie & Sons in 1937 and this was to remain his only employer for his working life. He was employed as a contract plumber in and around Brisbane and in Townsville and Cairns. While working in Townsville he met Ursula Stafford and married at the Holy Spirit Church, at New Farm, on December 8, 1948. Their only child Paula was born on May 8, 1956.



In 1954, Don transferred to Mackay to open Wyllie's first branch. As a manager, he employed more local apprentices than any other business of similar size. Don was awarded life membership to The Queensland Master Plumbers after serving as both its secretary and president. He also arranged two state conferences and made a significant contribution to Mackay's building industry.

Don involved himself with Mackay's church, business and community groups including the Rotary Club. Don had an outstanding career in Rotary becoming president within four years of his admission as a member and maintaining a perfect attendance record for 32 years. He was active in the club's youth affairs being instrumental in the formation of several Interact clubs and also organised the 1972 District Assembly and Conference and the club's 50th anniversary celebrations in 1976. For his service to Rotary, Don was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship and sapphire pin. Ursula was awarded a fellowship for her work in researching and keeping the club's records. Don joined the Sarina Probus Club and was its secretary until his retirement.

Don joined the Coolabah Toastmasters Club and became one of their most proficient speakers. He generously offered his experience to Mackay youths and others seeking to present themselves as better communicators in public. His commitment to the Catholic Church was also significant. Don was an active member of St Vincent de Paul and arranged the first congress outside of Brisbane. He was also a member of the Diocesan Education and Mater Hospital committees. He participated in the planning of St Francis Catholic Church and in spite of preparing the plumbing schedule, Wyllie's missed out on the final tender by \$400, however this was of no consequence to Don.

Don Murray died on June 10, 2006, having significantly enhanced Mackay's social, business and church life. Through his efforts he contributed to making the city the success it is today.